

Recent Energy Legislation

CLEAN CARS

In an effort to prevent the harmful rise of noxious greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions generated from motor vehicles, SB-660 implements a GHG labeling program for new vehicles sold or leased for the 2009 model year and later. The commissioner of the Department of Environment Protection must create a GHG labeling program, which will contain the GHG score comparing that vehicle's GHG emissions with those of other vehicle models of the same model year, the average GHG score within the same vehicle class, and any other relevant information as determined by DEP. The bill prohibits the sale or lease of a 2009 or later model year motor vehicle without a GHG emissions label. This measure is a major step toward the goal of lowering greenhouse gas emissions. (PA 06-161)

THE POSTING OF GAS PRICES

The General Assembly passed legislation which requires that both member and non-member prices be posted using the same size on signs advertising the price. It also requires that all prices, such as full-serve, mini-serve, and self-serve are clearly visible at the pump. This protects consumers from being misled about the price of gas prior to filling their tank. (PA 06-29)

FUEL CELL ECONOMY PLAN

The Department of Economic and Community Development will contract with the Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology to plan for fuel cell economic development. The plan will include strategies for commercializing fuel cells and hydrogen-based technologies, enhancing energy reliability and security, and developing ways to retain and expand the state's hydrogen and fuel cell industries.

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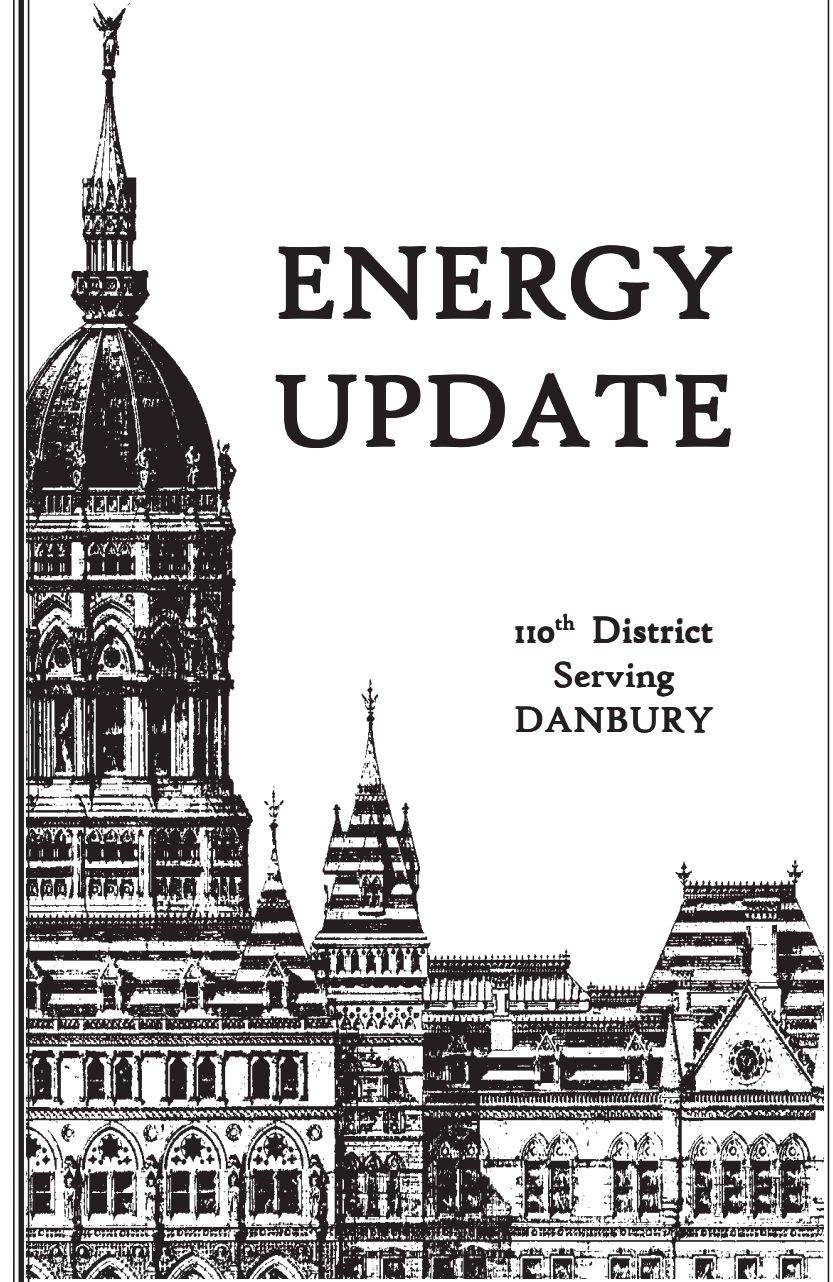


Bob Godfrey
State Representative
110th District

State Representative Bob Godfrey

ENERGY UPDATE

110th District
Serving
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ENERGY



ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF OUR CITIZENS

Our Current Energy Situation



Over the last two months, our legislative leaders have conducted energy summits to address the issues and needs of our state and to develop a comprehensive solution to our high energy costs. These summit meetings bring all interested parties (consumers, energy companies, businesses, scholars) together to aid policymakers in crafting a successful energy reform package.

This is the same strategy we used so successfully when addressing the new transportation plan and the UConn capital improvement plan. Addressing long-term energy issues is too important for a rushed resolution, which is why the legislature is proceeding with care.

While we move toward energy legislation, there are still many energy-saving practices available that I hope many of you already apply in your daily lives. Some of these energy-saving habits include: turning off the lights when they are not needed, sharing rides when possible, as well as lowering thermostats and air conditioners when no one is home. As small as these methods may appear, in the long-run, they will provide savings on your energy costs.



Out-of-Control Energy Costs

The time has come for a strong commitment to reducing the cost of energy in all its forms. This is not just a Connecticut problem, it is a national problem, and eventually, it will be a global crisis if left unchecked. While the problem is clearly rooted in a failed global energy policy by the federal government, which rewards the oil industry with big tax breaks and record profits, state leaders still have a responsibility to address the situation as much as possible for the betterment of our citizens.



I am sure many of you already know that passing new laws to lower energy is a complex and potentially risky issue. Eliminating “zone pricing” in the gasoline industry or regulating electric utilities, are not “money back guaranteed” to actually lower prices.

I share your frustration when filling up my tank at the gas station or paying monthly utility bills. However, I want you to know, despite the complexity of this issue, I will continue to work with my colleagues on a solution and support the recommendations that result from the energy summit.

Extended Sales Tax Holiday

This past fall, the legislature established a “sales tax holiday” for the winter heating season on weatherization products and energy efficient home heating equipment. We recently extended the program until June 2007, which means you can purchase the following products without paying the 6% state sales tax.

- ◆ Oil furnaces with at least 85% efficiency
- ◆ Gas furnaces
- ◆ Replacement windows and doors that meet Federal Energy Star Standards
- ◆ Insulation
- ◆ Programmable thermostats
- ◆ Water heaters
- ◆ Water heater blankets
- ◆ Window and door weather-stripping
- ◆ Window film and caulking



I encourage everyone to take advantage of the extended sales tax holiday. I will continue to support energy-saving legislation that addresses the needs of our community.

I would like to hear from you 1-800-842-1902 at the Capitol - Bob Godfrey